

## POLICY FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO APPLICANTS FOR WATER RIGHTS TO OBTAIN AND DEVELOP WATER SUPPLIES

Resource Contact: Policy and Planning Section

Effective Date: 08/28/98

Revised: NEW

References: Chapter 443, Laws of 1997 (SSB 5505), assistance for applicants for water rights to obtain and develop water supplies. Amended RCW 43.21A.064.

Purpose: To assist persons seeking new water rights, for purposes consistent with the land use permitted for the area in which the water is to be used and the population forecast for the area under RCW 43.62.035, to obtain and develop water supplies.

Application: All persons seeking to obtain new water rights for purposes that are consistent with land uses permitted for the area in which the water is to be used and the population forecast for the area under RCW 43.62.035.

1. Ecology to assist water right applicants to obtain and develop water supplies

Upon the request of an applicant for a water right, Ecology will provide assistance in obtaining or developing an adequate and appropriate supply of water if the proposed use of water is consistent with:

- a. the land use permitted for the area in which the water is to be used;
- b. the population forecast for the area under RCW 43.62.035; and
- c. if the applicant is a public water supply system, any applicable land use, watershed and water system plans.

2. Ecology to search its records

Upon receipt of a request for assistance, Ecology will inform the applicant of its intent to conduct a search of its records for existing water rights by the township, range, and section of the client's proposed point of diversion or withdrawal. The applicant may request in writing an expanded scope of search.

3. Ecology to provide listing of its records

Ecology will provide the applicant with a listing of all water rights in the client's specified search area resulting from the search of its records.

4. Ecology to provide documents

If requested by the applicant, Ecology will provide copies of any documents describing water rights (certificates, claims and accompanying maps) identified by the search of its records, along with instructions for understanding that information.

5. Ecology to contact Department of Health

Ecology will also contact the appropriate Department of Health Drinking Water Operations Regional Office about any public water systems in the vicinity of the request that might be capable of providing water to meet the needs of the applicant.

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Water Resources Program

**Special Note:** These policies and procedures are used to guide and ensure consistency among water resources program staff in the administration of laws and regulations. These policies and procedures are not formal administrative regulations that have been adopted through a rule-making process. In some cases, the policies may not reflect subsequent changes in statutory law or judicial findings, but they are indicative of the department's practices and interpretations of laws and regulations at the time they are adopted. If you have any questions regarding a policy or procedure, please contact the department.